

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
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R 080924Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0976

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, SHUM, EG
SUBJECT: PRESSURES FOR ISLAMIZATION

REF: CAIRO 14878 (NOTAL), ALEXANDRIA 0965 (NOTAL)

1. WHATEVER MAY BE REALITY, BELIEF IS COMMON IN ALEXANDRIA THAT PRESSURES ON SADAT FOR "ISLAMIZATION" OF EGYPTIAN CIVIL LAW (I.E., COMPATABILITY WITH RELIGIOUS LAW -- SHAR'IA) COME NOT SO MUCH FROM CONSERVATIVE ISLAMIC LEADERS IN EGYPT AS FROM SAUDI ARABIA. VARIOUS SOURCES, COPTIC, DEVOUT MOSLEM AND NON-PRACTICING MOSLEM, FAULTY STATE THAT KING KHALED AND GOVERNMENT ARE TELLING SADAT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WILL FIND IT EASIER TO RESPOND TO SADAT'S PLEAS FOR ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL SUPPORT IF EGYPT'S LAW (AND BY EXTENSION ITS PEOPLE) STOP THE SOCIALIST DRIFT TO A SECULAR STATE AND RETURN TO THE TEACHINGS AND THE LAW OF THE KORAN.

2. AS AN EXAMPLE ONE UNIVERSITY STUDENT MOSLEM (WHO IS OBSERVING RAMADAN) RECENTLY AGREED HEARTILY WITH A FELLOW STUDENT COPT WHEN LATTER CLAIMED SAUDI MONEY WAS BEHIND DRIVE TO ISLAMIZE EGYPTIAN LAW. THE YOUNG MOSLEM WENT ON TO SAY MANY BELIEVERS OF HIS AGE GROUP FEEL CHURCH AND STATE SHOULD BE SEPARATE, AS IN AMERICA. FYI - SOURCE ATTENDS AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DINING AT CONGEN RESIDENCE. -- END FYI.

3. AN ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION, ECHOED BOTH CHARGE AGAINST SAUDIS AND DESIRE FOR LESS, NOT MORE, RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE ON CIVIL STATE. HE IS NON-PRACTICING MOSLEM WHO HOLDS ENGLISH PHD AND DID POST-DOCTORAL STUDIES IN US.

4. SEVERAL OTHERS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ISLAMIZATION OF LAW IS RETROGRESSIVE STEP IN A SOCIETY SEEKING MODERN INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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